

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 02545 181704Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OPR-02
A-01 SY-05 HA-05 MCT-01 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 SCS-06 CA-01 /114 W
-----061295 181825Z /47

P R 181622Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7953
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
24TH CONTW HOWARD AFB CZ-IN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORS, EC
SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF DISORDERS

REF: QUITO 2481

1. FOLLOWING THE SECOND WEEKEND RECESS, PROTESTS AGAINST
THE 40 PERCENT BUS FARE INCREASE WERE RENEWED IN QUITO.
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL ALSO REPORTED THAT THEY BEGAN IN GUAYAQUIL
APRIL 17. THAT DAY MARKED THE OPENING OF SCHOOL REGISTRATION
IN GUAYAQUIL, EXPLAINING THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT DISORDERS IN
THAT CITY.

2. ALTHOUGH THE VIOLENCE OF APRIL 17 DID NOT REACH THE
LEVELS OF THE TWO PREVIOUS WEEKS, IT INDICATES THAT THE
PALLIATIVE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOE APRIL 14 WERE NOT
SUFFICIENT TO DESTROY THE MOMENTUM BUILT UP OVER TWO WEEKS
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PAGE 02 QUITO 02545 181704Z

OF DISTURBANCES. ON THAT DATE THE GOE DECREED THAT EMPLOYERS
WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE WORKERS EARNING LESS THAN 5,000 SUCRES
(US \$200) MONTHLY TRANSPORTATION OR 100 SUCRES (APPROX. \$4 US)
PER MONTH TO COVER THE COST OF THE BUS FARE INCREASE AND
RELEASED MOST DETAINED DEMONSTRATORS, INCLUDING THE STUDENT LEADERS
WHO HAD REPORTEDLY BEGUN A HUNGER STRIKE WHILE IN CUSTODY.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE DYNAMICS AT WORK IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS THAT CAN SURVIVE INTO THEIR THIRD WEEK IN THE FACE OF GOVERNMENT ACTION TO TRANSFER THE BURDEN OF FARE INCREASES TO EMPLOYERS, ONE ELEMENT MUST CERTAINLY BE THE ALMOST UNIVERSAL HOSTILITY OF THE GENERAL POPULATION TOWARD THE BUS OPERATORS. BUS SERVICE IN QUITO IS AMONG THE WORST IN THE HEMISPHERE. BUSES GENERALLY HAVE NO SEPARATE EXITS, DRIVERS PROVIDE RUDE AND ARROGANT SERVICE AND PASSENGERS ARE GENERALLY OBLIGED TO BOARD AND DISMOUNT ON THE FLY. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO VISTAZO MAGAZINE POLLED SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ABOUT THE PEOPLE THEY DISLIKED MOST; BUS DRIVERS APPEARED AT THE TOP OF THE LIST, BEATING OUT POLICE AND PLUTOCRATS FOR THAT DUBIOUS DISTINCTION.
CORR

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION, PASSENGER FARES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: PORS, PINS, EC
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